

Rocky Mountain Area Predictive Services

Southwest Monsoon Update

Sept. 3, 2006

Short Term:

Monsoon moisture is enhanced over the southwest U.S. on Sunday and Monday (Sep. 3-4) as it spreads northeastward out of tropical storm John; however this moisture is kept mainly south of the RMA with a northerly flow aloft over the area (Figure 1). Look for a drying trend to continue through Tuesday (Sep. 5) over the RMA as tropical storm John heads westward and a north-northwest flow aloft continues in the area.

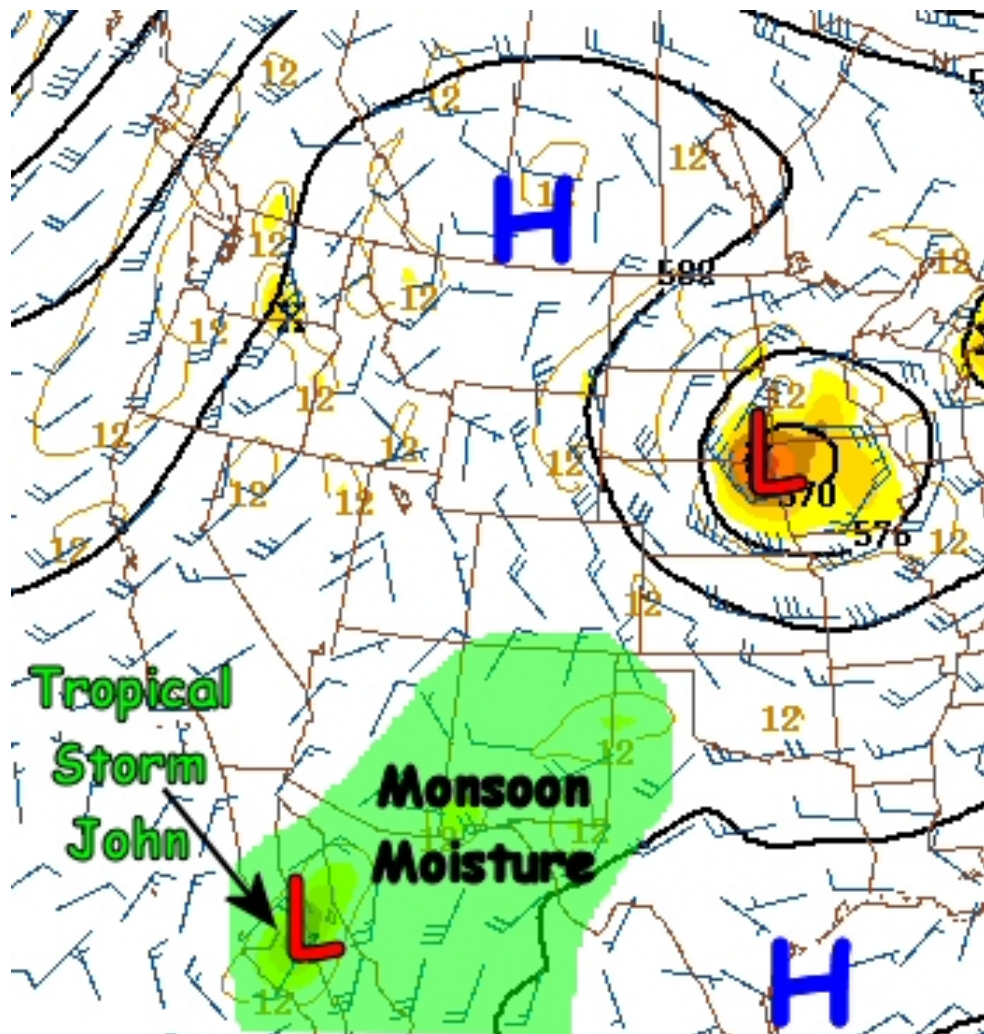


Figure 1. GFS 500 mb pressure pattern (~18,000 ft msl) Sunday 9/3/06, and 500 mb wind (blue barb)

Longer Range:

By Wednesday (9/6) through Thursday (9/7) monsoon moisture begins to be drawn northward into Colorado as a broad trough of low pressure develops over the southwest U.S. (Figure 2). Although scattered wet thunderstorms can be expected in the southern half of Colorado by Wednesday, and especially Thursday, dry lightning is possible on the northern fringe of this moisture in northwest Colorado and southwest Wyoming.

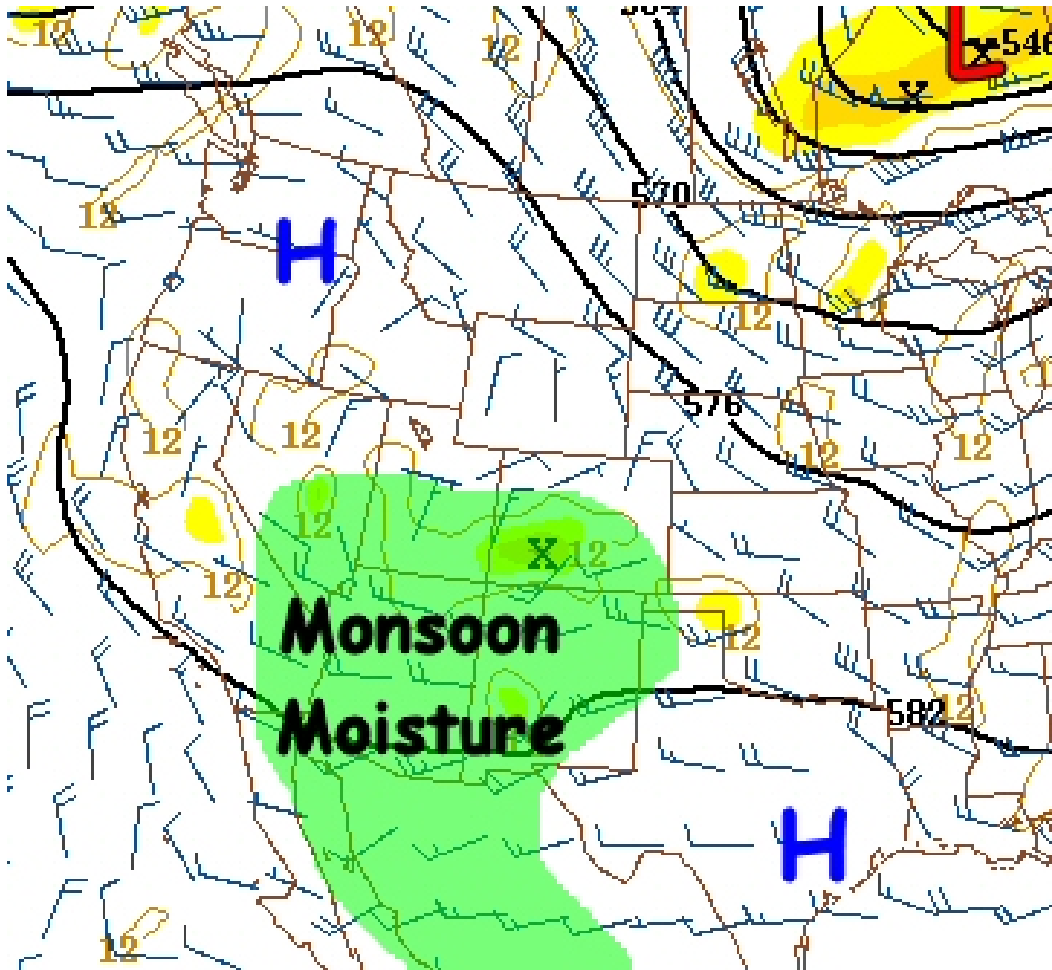


Figure 2. GFS 500 MB pressure pattern (~18,000 ft msl) Thursday 9/7/06, and 500 mb wind (blue barb)